

Comments on N2021-1

April 25, 2021

To the Postal Regulatory Commission:

I am not part of the Postal sector; I am a US citizen who believes in and relies on the Postal Service. I am writing in opposition to the proposed changes to the Postal System that would further degrade service and standards.

I believe in Universal Service and the survival of a public agency the people of this country can rely upon. The private sector is answerable to no one other than shareholders and can raise rates to any level it believes it can sustain. I know that USPS has been burdened by costs no other government agency carries in terms of pension obligations and an expectation that it turn a profit as if it were indeed a private sector business.

Everyone knows that the pandemic has worsened processing and delivery problems that already existed. I have experienced lost mail, returned mail improperly marked as "address does not exist" and delays like getting bills from my utilities too few days before their due dates, so that my payments by check are not timely. I ascribe these problems to the increasing use of temporary, non-union mail carriers. When it was the regular carrier six days a week, my mail arrived dependably. But further cuts to service will only worsen the situation.

Instead, I ask the PRC to study what would make the USPS viable, to restore a reliable and efficient service, by examining various and hybrid ways to pay for it. When I lived in Switzerland, we all paid our bills through the postal bank, an efficient system that would be especially useful to people in less densely populated areas of the United States. Americans want their Post Offices to survive and if asked we might be willing to pay more for a first-class stamp in return for a service we can rely on. If this consumer cost would be onerous, then Congress can take up the question of additional funding (as it does for rail service). It can certainly remove the future pension funding requirements.

The 10-year plan that is proposed will create a death spiral. Declining service will mean declining use. While I personally may have options for paying bills, banking and other necessary communications, many people do not. If you approve this plan you must acknowledge that you are knowingly killing what is arguably our oldest Constitutional "original" public government agency. Do not privatize our Postal Service!

Yours truly,

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